

Sample HAPPY Hour Student Showcase Handout

Creatively Grouping Your Students

HAPPY Hour Student Showcase
University of Central Florida
College of Education
(Date)

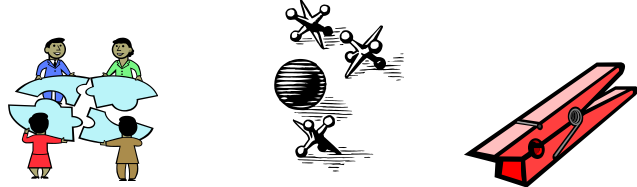
Presenter:

Dr. Karen Verkler, kverkler@mail.ucf.edu

Grouping strategies can contribute to a positive learning environment. Creative grouping procedures can add humor, variety, and a mode by which students can channel their energy. They also can positively enhance the interactions between you and your students as well as between your students and their peers.

List of materials:

index cards with well-known songs
index cards with different actions
puzzles having only 4-5 pieces
different objects – 5 cars, 5 jacks, 5 balls, 5 letters, etc.



Directions:

Instead of grouping your students the same old way over and over again, add some novelty to your grouping techniques and keep your students laughing and guessing as to what you will do next! Each strategy takes only minutes to implement. Once the students are grouped, they are then assigned the actual group task to complete. Below are some ways that you can creatively group your students and add some levity to your classroom:

- 1. By Songs:** The number of different songs should equal the number of desired groups. For example, if you want six groups, select six different songs with which you are relatively certain the students are familiar. Then write the titles of these songs on index cards, one title per card. Divide the number of students by the number of desired groups to determine the number a song title has to be replicated. Randomly distribute the cards to the students, telling them that they are to softly hum the tune of the song on the index card and find another student who is humming the same tune. All students humming the same tune become a group.
- 2. By First Name:** Have the students line up by first name. Depending upon the number of students you want per group, section off the students once the line is formed. For example, the first five students will work together. The second five students will work together, etc. This is a great ice breaker.
- 3. By Birthday:** Have the students line up by their birthday. This is another good ice breaker. Section off the students once the line is formed. For example, the first four students work together. The second four students work together, etc.
- 4. By Height:** Have students line up by height. Section off the students once the line is formed. For example, the first five students work together, etc.
- 5. By Action:** The number of actions should equal the number of desired groups. On index cards, write an action (e.g., clapping hands, patting one's head, hopping on one foot, etc.). Write one action per index card. Then distribute the cards randomly to the students, instructing them to perform the action on the card and to find another student performing the same action. All students doing the same action will work together.
- 6. By Puzzle Piece:** Puzzles with only 4-5 pieces can be purchased very inexpensively at discount stores such as K-Mart, Wal-Mart, and Target. Using these puzzles (the number of pieces/puzzle is equal to the desired number of group members), mix up all of the pieces from all of the puzzles. Randomly distribute the pieces to the students, instructing them to find other students having pieces belonging to the same puzzle. Once they have found each other, they are to complete the puzzle to verify their group placement. All students completing the same puzzle will work together.
- 7. By Object:** Obtain a number of small objects, making sure that you have some duplicates. The number of different objects will equal the number of desired groups. Place the objects in a container near the classroom entrance and instruct students to select an object as they enter the class and take it to their seat for the class period. When it is time for group work, students with the same object will work together.